

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROBERT “BOB” TAYLOR
FOR HIS DEDICATED PUBLIC
SERVICE

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. MCNERNEY. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert “Bob” Taylor for his decades of dedicated public service to our community. This year, Bob will retire after serving as Mayor of the City of Brentwood for the last fourteen years—longer than any other Mayor in Brentwood’s history.

Bob Taylor was first elected to the Brentwood City Council in 2004 and served as a Councilmember for two years until he was elected Mayor in 2006. As Mayor, Bob has shown his unwavering commitment to our community and is well known for his vibrant personality and dedication to the success of the City of Brentwood and its residents. Bob has also been instrumental in ensuring the safety of the community-at-large through his service on transportation committees such as the Highway 4 Bypass Authority. In addition to this and other committees, he serves on numerous boards and commissions, making sure to never miss an opportunity that could improve the quality of life for his constituents.

Prior to becoming Mayor, Bob served twelve years on the Liberty Union High School District Board of Trustees. He has been a businessman and a farmer, and was Past President of Harvest Time Brentwood, a local non-profit farming organization. He is an active community member, participating in Brentwood Chamber of Commerce events, among many other community activities. Bob has made invaluable contributions to our community, and his leadership has made a positive impact on countless individuals and families.

Bob is also a veteran who has served our great nation as a member of the United States Navy during the Vietnam era. He currently acts as the Brentwood City Council’s liaison to various veterans’ groups, demonstrating his steadfast commitment to his fellow servicemembers and our nation’s veterans. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing Robert “Bob” Taylor. His distinguished public service is unparalleled and is as an example to us all.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CAPTAIN ROBERT S. KOBER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Robert S. Kober of the Dearborn Fire Department on the occasion of his retirement. His honorable twenty-five

years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

A native of Dearborn and a graduate of Edsel Ford High School, Captain Kober began his career at the Dearborn Fire Department in April 1997, beginning as a Firefighter 1. In 2003, he was promoted to Firefighter 2 and then to the role of Fire Engineer in 2006. Due to his excellence in service, he was named Lieutenant in 2012 and then Captain in 2017. Known for his bravery and leadership, he received the Medal of Valor in 2014. He is also the recipient of several awards, including numerous Fire Chief Unit Commendations and Meritorious Company Commendations.

Involved in the Dearborn community, Captain Kober participates in the annual Dearborn Firefighter Burn Drive and other community events, such as the 9/11 memorial services and Santa at the Firehouse. Caring deeply about public service and helping those in need, he has supported his fellow firefighters and other officers through activism at the Michigan State Capitol. When not at the fire station, he can be found spending time cheering on his kids at sports events. He resides in Dearborn, Michigan with his family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Robert S. Kober for a career of exemplary service to the Dearborn Fire Department. I join with Captain Kober’s family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service in protecting our community and thank him for his role in serving the people of the City of Dearborn for the past twenty-five years. We wish him the best in retirement.

MARKING INTERNATIONAL DAY
AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA,
BIPHOBIA, AND TRANSPHOBIA

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my united and unwavering support of LGBTQI+ people across the globe and their right to live their lives openly, free from discrimination, harassment, and violence.

Yesterday, May 17th, we marked the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. I had hoped that by 2022, we would no longer need this day to draw attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTQI+ people around the world.

In too many countries, it is still a crime to be LGBTQI+. At least 68 countries have laws that criminalize same-sex sexual relations between consenting adults. In six of those countries, people can be sentenced to death for same-sex sexual relations. And at least nine countries have laws criminalizing forms of gender expression that target the transgender community.

In countries like Russia, LGBTQI+ people are targeted for discrimination. And under

Putin’s regime, they also have seen their ability to organize and fight for their rights curtailed.

In countries like Chechnya, LGBTQI+ people are subjected to state-sanctioned torture and violence, including murder.

The United States has a moral obligation to address these human rights abuses against LGBTQI+ people. That is why the House passed—with a bipartisan vote—the Global Respect Act, legislation I authored to deny visas to those who commit human rights abuses against LGBTQI+ people abroad. This legislation will also codify reporting requirements on these issues in the State Department’s annual Human Rights Report. The Senate now needs to send it to the President’s desk.

We need to equip our government with the tools it needs to help secure LGBTQI+ equality and protect the rights of LGBTQI+ people here at home and abroad.

We are fortunate to have strong allies in the White House in President Biden and Vice President Harris. Their administration has stated unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States to “pursue an end to violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.” They have done important work to advance those goals and have also taken meaningful action to ensure we are leading by example here at home as well.

In his State of the Union Address, President Biden specifically asked us, this Congress, to send him the Equality Act for his signature.

The Equality Act will, finally, explicitly prohibit LGBTQI+ discrimination in key areas of our everyday lives—including employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally-funded programs, credit, and jury selection.

The House passed this bill, and I am now asking the Senate to do the same.

As we espouse values of equality abroad, we need to look inwardly too.

In too many states, LGBTQI+ people, especially trans youth, have been under attack. More than a dozen anti-LGBTQI+ bills have been signed into law in the states this year. These laws are discriminatory, and cruel, and are doing real harm to the LGBTQI+ community.

The Trevor Project recently published a study which found that in the past year 45 percent of LGBTQ+ children seriously considered attempting suicide.

Stop for a minute and take that in. Almost one out of every two LGBTQ+ children seriously thought about taking their own life. If that statistic was the same for your child, would you act?

The Trevor Project also found that 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary children attempted suicide and 60 percent of LGBTQ+ youth who wanted mental health care couldn’t access it.

We must do better. And for us in Congress, that means strengthening protections for the LGBTQI+ community here at home and abroad. It means taking this meaningful action

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.